

Message Text

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TO SECSTATE WASHDC 9929

INFO AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

C O N F I D E N T I A L BUCHAREST 3879

LIMDIS

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: OVIP (SEC WEINBERGER'S CALLS ON CEAUSESCU AND
BODNARAS AUGUST 27

1. HIGHLIGHTS OF CEAUSESCU'S COMMENTS TO SECRETARY
WEINBERGER INCLUDE.

A. REAFFIRMATION OF INVITATION TO PRESIDENT FORD
TO VISIT ROMANIA;

B. HOPES THAT ROMANIA'S RELATIONS WITH THE UNITED
STATES COULD BE AT LEAST AS GOOD AND PREFERABLY STILL
BETTER THAN WITH THE PREVIOUS ADMINISTRATION;

C. STRESS ON IMPORTANCE OF MFN FOR ROMANIA;

D. DANGERS TO WORLD PEACE OF SITUATIONS LIKE
CYPRUS WHERE INDEPENDENCE AND SOVEREIGNTY OF SMALL
COUNTRIES VIOLATED.

2. SECRETARY FOR HIS PART STRESSED (A) CONTINUITY OF
ADMINISTRATION'S FOREIGN POLICY; (B) THE PRESIDENT'S
CLEAR INTEREST IN MAINTAINING VERY GOOD RELATIONS
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WITH ROMANIA WHICH ARE NOT DEPENDENT ON OUR RELATIONS

WITH OTHER COUNTRIES LIKE THE SOVIET UNION OR CHINA;
AND (C) THE ADMINISTRATION COMMITMENT TO OBTAIN MFN.
IN LATTER CONNECTION SECRETARY POINTED OUT CONGRESSIONAL
COMPLICATIONS THAT HAD EXISTED BUT NOTED THAT NEW
ADMINISTRATION'S BETTER RELATIONS WITH CONGRESS MADE
PASSAGE OF LEGISLATION MUCH MORE LIKELY.

3. CONVERSATION WITH BODNARAS RAN WELL OVER AN HOUR
AND A HALF. ASIDE FROM DISCUSSION OF CONFERENCE
QUESTIONS (MOSTLY LATEST DEVELOPMENTS ON PRG QUESTION
REPORTED BUCHAREST 3851). DISCUSSION ANTICIPATED SOME
OF THE POINTS SUBSEQUENTLY COVERED WITH CEAUSESCU,
I.E. CONTINUITY OF ADMINISTRATION FOREIGN POLICY AND
IMPORTANCE US ATTACHES TO DEVELOPING RELATIONS WITH
ROMANIA ON PART OF SECRETARY WEINBERGER AND SIGNIFICANCE
OF MFN BY BODNARAS. BODNARAS ALSO OUTLINED FOR
SECRETARY IMPORTANCE ROMANIA ATTACHES TO BEING TREATED
SEPARATELY AND NOT AS A SOVIET APPENDAGE. HE
COMMENTED, FOR EXAMPLE, THAT BREZHNEV MAY CLAIM TO
SPEAK FOR THE SOCIALIST COUNTRIES OF EASTERN EUROPE,
BUT SUCH CLAIM HAS NO VALIDITY SO FAR AS ROMANIA IS
CONCERNED. EXPRESSED CONCERN THAT THE UNITED STATES
DESPITE ITS NICE WORDS REALLY SUBORDINATES ITS POLICY
ON MFN FOR ROMANIA TO THE MFN QUESTION FOR THE SOVIET
UNION. THE SECRETARY ASSURED HIM THAT WE WERE SEEKING
MFN FOR BOTH COUNTRIES AND EXPRESSED THE HOPE THAT
LEGISLATION WOULD GET THROUGH CONGRESS THIS YEAR.
ASIDE FROM MFN QUESTION, BODNARAS EXPRESSED GREAT
SATISFACTION WITH THE WAY US-ROMANIAN RELATIONS WERE
DEVELOPING. IN PASSING, HE CHARACTERIZED ROMANIAN-
CHINESE RELATIONS AS VERY GOOD AND ROMANIAN-SOVIET
RELATIONS AS GOOD, NOTING CONTINUING DIFFICULTIES
WITH SOVIET INTERPRETATION OF WHO OUGHT TO DECIDE HOW
THINGS OUGHT TO BE RUN. HAVING MADE THIS POINT, HOWEVER,
HE EMPHASIZED THAT US SHOULD NOT MAKE THE MISTAKE OF
ASSUMING THAT DIFFERENCES AMONG SOCIALIST COUNTRIES
COULD BE EXPLOITED ALL THAT MUCH BECAUSE THE SOCIALIST
TIE IS STILL A VERY STRONG ONE.

4. SECRETARY USED BOTH THE CEAUSESCU AND BODNARAS
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MEETINGS TO MENTION HIS INTEREST IN PROMOTING AN
EXCHANGE OF TEACHERS AT THE SECONDARY SCHOOL LEVEL.
CEAUSESCU APPROVED THE IDEA AND ADDED HE WAS IN FAVOR
OF EXPANDING EXCHANGES AT ALL LEVELS. BODNARAS WAS
MORE CAUTIOUS, WANTING TO MAKE SURE THAT WE WEREN'T
THINKING OF FLOODING ROMANIA WITH AMERICAN TEACHERS
THE WAY THE SOVIETS AND THE FRENCH AT ONE TIME HAD
TRIED TO DO.

5. SECRETARY ALSO HAD MEETING AUGUST 27 WITH HEALTH
MINISTER BURGHELE AND WILL BE SEEING PRIME MINISTER
MANESCU AND EDUCATION MINISOAR MIZIL AUGUST 28.
BARNES

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